

The Athens Post

BY SAM. P. IVINS.

ATHENS, TENN., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1862.

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The Post.

Athens, Friday, December 12, 1862.

Selected Telegrams.

RICHMOND, Dec. 3.—Nothing new from Fredericksburg.

The report that Burnside was superseded by Hooker is received with little show of truth. The person who run the blockade says he saw it in the Northern papers.

A Yankee gunboat came up to West Point on York river yesterday and destroyed two small vessels.

In a skirmish in Hampshire County, Va., a few days ago the Federal Brigadier Gen. Ross was killed by our border rangers.

MOBILE, Dec. 4.—The *Advertiser & Register* has a dispatch dated Okaloosa, Dec. 3d, which says: We learn, from official source, that the Yankee forces are at Bolivar, Tenn., and three regiments at Grand Junction, and one at Davis Mills. One force which advanced from Grand Junction on Friday morning last, numbered 80 regiments, comprising 35,000 men.

It is rumored that the Federals were encamped last night ten miles from Pontotoc, in heavy force.

At 9 o'clock, P. M., the Yankees were reported to be advancing from Corinth. Our pickets fired on them at Saltillo, on the Memphis & Okaloosa Railroad.

WILMINGTON, Dec. 3.—A schooner trying to run the blockade ran ashore this morning on Smith's Island, six miles south of Fort Fisher. The blockade runners were at her, but out of range. A company from Fort Fisher has gone to her assistance. One of the blockade runners ran out of sight at 8 o'clock, and returned at 10½ with a schooner.

MOBILE, Dec. 3.—A special dispatch to the *Mobile Advertiser & Register* dated Knoxville 2d inst., says Bragg has issued an order granting a general amnesty to all soldiers now absent without leave and published as deserters, if they return immediately to their commands.

An order has been issued to all regiments of Bragg's army in the Kentucky campaign to have inscribed on their colors, "Perryville," and those of Cheat-ham's Division have a cross cannon as an additional mark of distinction.

Louisville papers of Nov. 22 say there is ten feet water at Pittsburg. The rise is not sufficient to let out the Canal Boat fleet preparing to leave Louisville for Kanawha under command of Commodore McClure.

Six steamers with a portion of Yankee Morgan's command were hourly expected at Cincinnati en route South.

All quiet on the Cumberland.

Latest from the North.

RICHMOND, Dec. 4.—A dispatch from Petersburg of the 4th says the New York Times of the 2d had been received there. Lincoln's Message was read on Monday. It makes seven columns in the Times.—It is a very sorry document. He opens by saying that since the last assembling of Congress another year with bountiful harvests has passed, while it has not pleased the Almighty to bless the United States with the return of peace. We can but press on, trusting that in God's own good time all will be well.

A captain of a Texas regiment and a clerk in the Quartermaster's Department at Richmond deserted near Fredericksburg on Friday night, making all sorts of disclosures, as usual.

A Washington dispatch says it is no longer a question that the Army of the Potomac owes its failure to cross the Rappahannock promptly on arrival to an inexcusable delay in furnishing means of transportation.

It is rumored that Gen. Meigs has been removed, and Gen. Woodbury arrested for causing the delay.

It is stated on good authority that 180,000 soldiers are now absent from the Federal army without leave.

From Virginia.

RICHMOND, Dec. 4.—All quiet at Fredericksburg. Passengers express the opinion that the enemy are going away, perhaps to Port Royal.

Hampton's cavalry captured a Federal picket consisting of a Lieutenant and 5 men at Stafford Steen north of Fredericksburg.

The wise man dies but once; the fool and coward, a thousand times.

Northern News.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 4.—The *N. Y. Herald* of the 29th has been received here. It says Burnside did not advance because the Pontoon Bridge did not arrive in time. Burnside intends arresting the parties responsible for the delay.

The rebels were busy fortifying the South bank of the Rappahannock, in plain view of the Unionists.

The railroad between Aquia creek and the Rappahannock has been completed, and trains were running on the 28th.

Late foreign news received unimportant.

The London *Post* says the general disposition of the English people is to avoid interference because only one belligerent invites it. When the peace party at the North becomes sufficiently strong to ask for mediation, England will accede.

The French Press is bitter against England's course.

Nassau dispatches announce the arrival of the steamers *Herald* and *Leopold* from Charleston.

An arrival from North Carolina announces that Newbern had been attacked by four thousand rebels, under Gen. Martin, who were repulsed.

The yellow fever had ceased at Port Royal, and active operations would soon begin in that department.

Fitz John Porter's trial before a Court Martial was progressing in Washington on the 25th ult.

The *Herald* says that McNeil, the Missouri Butcher, was merely a militia general, not an army officer, and presumes that President Davis will therefore withdraw his threat.

All the State prisoners confined in Fort Warren, including the Maryland secessionists, are to be liberated on the coming Thanksgiving day.

The French steamer *Milanne* steamed past Fort Sumpter, and anchored close to the city.

There are thirteen blockading vessels in sight.

Fredericksburg.

We take the following from the *Lynchburg Republican* of the 4th instant:

From an intelligent observer, who has recently visited Fredericksburg, the Examiner has some interesting accounts of the situation of the enemy, and of affairs in connection with the military crisis in that quarter.

The heights on the opposite bank of the river are crowded with the enemy's batteries, and the black muzzles of their cannon are said to look down in every street in Fredericksburg. An artillery battery of some twelve miles down the river, the enemy have a heavy land battery, and on Sunday last four gunboats were reported to be in that vicinity.

It is estimated that not more than three or four hundred persons of the resident population, have withdrawn to any distance from Fredericksburg. But many more are crowded in the country immediately around the city, camping out in the fields, and living on such scanty and precarious subsistence as is at hand. The spectacles which meet the eye, as the city is approached, of this homeless population, are said to be very touching. Not more than about thirty families remain within the limits of the city, who from poverty and other causes, are desperately resolved to abide the chances of war.

Trouble in Western North Carolina.

Accounts have reached us of a difficulty, which threatens to be serious in the Western portion of North Carolina.

About 2 o'clock on the morning of the 9th ult., some 25 armed men visited Waynesville, Haywood county, and demanded the release of a man named Franklin, who was confined of murder at a recent term of the Court, and was under sentence of death. The jailor, having no force to resist the demand, was seized and held, while Franklin was released and carried off in triumph. The party represented themselves as from East Tennessee, and said they had a reserve of three hundred armed men to back up their demand. They threatened, if resisted, to burn the town.

Subsequently a courier arrived at the town of Asheville, in quest of powder, who stated that an army of several hundred men from East Tennessee was regularly fortified on the line between Haywood county and Tennessee. Some reports put the number at 1,100, but it is not believed to be so large. The militia of Haywood to the number of 250, with 60 Cherokee Indians, were holding them in check. Runners had been sent to Gen. Kirby Smith, informing him of the condition of affairs, and asking assistance. The locality is about forty-five miles west of Asheville, and bordering upon the most disloyal portion of East Tennessee.—*Richmond Dispatch.*

What a Paris Correspondent Says.
The Paris correspondent of the *New York Herald*, under date of the 1st inst., says:

Intervention is a word now in every one's mouth on this side of the channel. The Emperor makes no secret of his wishes, and said to a general officer of my acquaintance, only just before he set out for Compiegne, that the time was come when, if the civilized world had any respect for itself, it must interfere. Indeed, I feel perfectly certain that an overtone, if it has not already been made, will be made to President Lincoln.

The pressure upon the industrial communities is such that the Emperor is obliged to choose between internal commotion and external irritation; and in such a choice his dynasty exigencies leave him a narrow margin.

Bull Run Time.

In a late pedestrian match over the New Market road, near Norwich (England), Brighton, the "Norwich Milk Boy," ran against and defeated Deerfoot, the "Seneca Indian," closing his ten miles with a margin of fifty yards, in fifty-four minutes and thirteen seconds.

A Northern Opinion of Southern Society.

Among the most striking episodes in the proceedings of the Unitarian Annual Convention, which opened its session in New York last week, is the peculiar feeling excited by the remarks of Rev. Dr. Bellows, in eulogy of Southern social life, and the influences proceeding from it. The opinion so frankly expressed by the Reverend gentleman has excited the most bitter comment among the members of the Convention. He said:

No candid man will deny the peculiar charm of Southern young men at College, or Southern young women in society. Their race and their education, independent of servile institutions, may have produced the Southern chivalric spirit and manner. I will not here consider. But one may as well deny the small feet and hands of that people as deny a certain hereditary habit of command; a contempt of life in defence of honor or class; a talent for political life, and an easy control of inferiors. Nor is this merely an external and flashy heroism. It is real. It showed itself in Congress, and always by the courage, eloquence, skill and success with which it controlled the majority. It showed itself in the social life of Washington, by the grace, fascination, and ease, the free and charming hospitality by which it governed society. It now shows itself in England and France, by the success with which it manages the courts and the circles of literature and fashion in both countries. It shows itself in this war, in the orders and proclamations of its Generals, in the messages of its Congress, and in the essential good breeding and humanity (contrary to a diligent encouraged public impression) with which it not seldom divides its medical stores, and gives our sick and wounded as favorable a cure as it is able to extend to its own.

It exceeds us at this moment in the possession of an ambulance corps. I think the war must have increased the respect felt by the North for the South. Its miraculous resources, the bravery of its troops, their patience under hardships, their unshrinking firmness in the desperate position they have assumed, the wonderful success with which they exterminated manufactures and munitions of war, and kept themselves in relation with the world in spite of our magnificent blockade, the elasticity with which they have risen from defeat, and the courage they have shown in threatening again our Capital, and even our interior, cannot fail to exert an unwilling admiration and respect. Well said Gen. McClellan reported to have said (privately), as he watched their obstinate fighting at Antietam, and saw them retiring in perfect order in the midst of the fearful carnage: "What terrible neighbors these would be. We must conquer them, or they will conquer us."

The New Commander.

A writer from Richmond, in the following about Burnside:

Major-General Ambrose E. Burnside, it is said, is announced as Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the Potomac. A friend, who was a merchant in Washington city, at the first battle of Manassas, and who left the week following, was amusing me the other night with sundry incidents connected with Washington city and that battle, both prior and subsequent to it. Among others he mentioned that this General Burnside, a short time previous to the battle, passed through the city in command of the or a Rhode Island regiment. He was, he remarked, "commanded a brigade which could march with ease from Washington to the Gulf." When he left Washington "he wore a wreath" of flowers around one of his arms, and carried an immense bouquet in his first military expedition. On the day after the battle he remarked, looking so haggard that my friend, who saw him, said he looked as if he had been on a "bust" for three weeks. Of his entire brigade, but little over 100 could be rallied. When or where the demoralized mass ever got together I never learned.

Generals are both made and unmade at the same time. At Antietam, or at the battle of Fredericksburg, he was given Gen. Burnside a momentary reputation for it is generally conceded at the South, I believe, had Gen. Wise had one thousand more men at Rappahannock Island, the former would have passed into merited oblivion. And the idea of putting Burnside in the place of McClellan seems so absurd, that were it not so serious a matter to the thousands likely to be sacrificed to such a move, it would sound as if Mr. Lincoln were at his old tricks—playing off jokes with his whole army.

When the States Seceded.

Frequent inquiries are made as to when the Acts of Secession were passed by the several States. South Carolina Seceded December 20, 1860; Mississippi, January 9, 1861; Alabama and Florida, January 11, 1861; Georgia, January 19, 1861; Louisiana, January 26, 1861; Texas, February 1, 1861; Virginia, April 17, 1861; Arkansas, May 6, 1861; North Carolina, May 20, 1861. Tennessee passed the Ordinance of Secession May 6th, and it was ratified by the people June 8th, 1861.

CURE OF DIPHTHERIA.—The Richmond

Wig says: "A gentleman who has tried it says that Kerosene, or coal oil, is an almost infallible remedy for that terrible and fatal disease—Diphtheria. The remedy is to be applied externally, by rubbing the throat with the oil freely and frequently. It has cured numerous cases, many, probably, as fifty, in one neighborhood where our informant lives, and he knows of but one case in which it failed. He regards it as the best remedy known for this disease. The remedy is a simple one and easily tried."

The Richmond *Examiner* is pleased to learn that certain rumors to which it referred some time ago of defection or mismanagement in the Medical Purveyor's Office, have no other foundation than a misapprehension of some facts, in themselves wholly indifferent.

Letter from Ex-Senator Bigler, of Pennsylvania in Favor of Peace.

CLEARFIELD, PENN., Nov. 1, 1862.

MY DEAR SIR: In reply to your favor of the 30th ultimo, I have to say that you have been rightly informed. I do not intend to be a candidate for United States Senator at the coming election, and have so expressed myself to friends on all proper occasions. I have a number of reasons, public and private, for this course, one of which is that the eastern and northern sections of the State, make special claim to the Senator, at this time, on the ground that we have one in the West recently elected and cannot reasonably claim both for the long term.

The other question you ask, "what can be done to save the country?" is so readily answered. The usual response is, "I know." Few of our best thinkers have, however, considered the question, and it is not even certain that the Administration at Washington has a well defined policy to that end. I have some thoughts on the subject which I do not hesitate to give you. They may seem to you common and on some points even novel and startling; but they are the result of some reflection.

The sword is the only agency at work. But the sword cannot do all. It is an agent of destruction. It may chastise and silence the rebels in the field, but it cannot make a Union of States; it cannot restore confidence and fraternity among the people estranged and alienated to each other. If we war against the rebels in the South only, as many at the beginning supposed, then the war might put them down and the masses could return to their allegiance. But the conflict turns out to be with the whole mass of the people within the Seceded States, old and young, male and female, numbering many millions. With such a power, sooner or later, we shall have to negotiate. The sword alone will never restore this people to the Union.

You well know that when the present carnage, which has been so long, has been avoided, and, as I believe, unity of the States preserved for generations, without the sacrifice of principle, honor, conscience on either side; passion, prejudice and the earliest opportunity for settlement. In God's name I would ask, should we do less when engaged in a war among ourselves? It is idle and worse than idle, to delude ourselves about the nature of the conflict in which we are engaged. We cannot make a Union by force alone, though we may triumph over the South in the field, and we may as well look the complications square in the face as not. The first question is, do we intend, do we desire to lose the Southern States back in the Union, or the terms of the Constitution? If we do, then it is seen that they are to be the equals of the Northern States in rights, sovereignty, and dignity. Does any one believe that such a relation can be established and maintained by the Seceded States subjugate and humiliate the others, then they could not live together as the equals of the free people of the Union, and always the enemies of the subjugators.

When all the States, therefore, resume their former relations, or new relations, and an intimate friendship, and the act of all the settlement is to be complete and permanent.

I have heard a great deal about patching up a dishonorable peace—about the humiliation and disgrace to the North, and every other proposition for settlement—and there is nothing that is said about the affairs of the country for which I have less respect. It is even said by some that he is a disloyal citizen who seeks to re-establish the Union by other means than the sword. How absurd! The sword has been at work; its agency has been tested, vigorously and terribly tested—and how stand the States now that should be in harmony? The sword has been at work; its agency has been tested, vigorously and terribly tested—and how stand the States now that should be in harmony? The sword has been at work; its agency has been tested, vigorously and terribly tested—and how stand the States now that should be in harmony?

What then can be done? and I regret that all that should be done can not be accomplished promptly. The States now in the Union should be in convention, or have delegates ready to go into convention, in order to re-affirm the present constitutional relation as may be found necessary to bring together and retain all the States. The State Legislatures could petition Congress for such a convention as provided by the Constitution, and Congress could make the necessary provisions for it before the close of the coming session. Such State Legislatures as do not meet in the regular order could be specially convened; and when the necessary number of States petition, it is obligatory on Congress to comply.

The body thus constituted would be compelled to adjust and settle all complications which now beset us. In the midst of war then, we should be prepared to make peace; whereas, when the time comes for settlement, in the absence of such a body, it might be found that we have no competent authority in existence to do the things that may be necessary. Neither Congress nor the Executive, nor the two together, have the right authority to change the old or make new relations among the States. Congress may submit amendments to the Constitution for the ratification of the States, and I believe the present calamities of the nation could have been averted in that way in the winter of 1861; but now the disorders of the country are too complicated to be reached in that form.

Meanwhile, the President and Congress should prepare the way for settlement. Indeed, by consulting the people through the ballot-box, they might make a settlement, to be ratified by the States themselves. Let the President propose an armistice for the purpose of considering some programme of reunion and settlement, in which the feelings and rights of the masses in the South shall be duly appreciated and provided for. Invite them to come back on the conditions of the constitution, with explicit definitions on controverted points, or on new conditions, with the fullest assurance of justice and equality when they do so come. Let him do this, and challenge the rebel authorities to submit such propositions as may be agreed upon to an unrestrained vote of the Southern States, as he will, at the same time, submit such propositions to a

South was so held, their hate of the North would increase, and while the North held the South it could do but little else; meanwhile its material interest must languish and die. But, in addition, such a work is utterly inconsistent with the genius of our institutions, and could scarcely fail to lead to their utter perversion and ultimate overthrow, adding to the calamities of disunion the sacrifices of the Southern States as conquered provinces. Conquest and empire, however magnificent, could not compensate for such a loss.

To exterminate the inhabitants of the South would be a deliberate emasculation of the Union, rendering its reconstruction at once impracticable and hopeless, and involve a work of barbarity from which the Northern people would shrink in horror. The existence of the Southern States in any form, with their full political and social rights, is, of course, an essential—nay, I will say indispensable—to the welfare of the North. I am, therefore, against extermination and against the policy of holding the Southern States as conquered provinces. This ground can be maintained so easily on purely selfish considerations for the North, which will occur to all, that I need not trouble you with their presentation on this occasion. I am for re-establishing the Union as it was, or making a Union as similar as practicable, the States to be equals and to be sovereign to the extent the States now are, each to have and enjoy such domestic institutions as it may choose; and were I in Congress I should sustain it, and believe that such a relation can be established and maintained by the Seceded States subjugate and humiliate the others, then they could not live together as the equals of the free people of the Union, and always the enemies of the subjugators.

I know it will be said in reply to all this, "Then let the Southern people lay down their arms and come back into the Union, and all will be right again." Would to God they could be induced so to do! There is no guarantee in reason that I would not be willing to grant such a return to reason and duty? I can see none, and I expect to see none, so long as the sword is unaccompanied by agents of settlement and peace. When our army went to Mexico, it was accompanied by a peace commission, in order to embrace the earliest opportunity for settlement. In God's name I would ask, should we do less when engaged in a war among ourselves? It is idle and worse than idle, to delude ourselves about the nature of the conflict in which we are engaged. We cannot make a Union by force alone, though we may triumph over the South in the field, and we may as well look the complications square in the face as not. The first question is, do we intend, do we desire to lose the Southern States back in the Union, or the terms of the Constitution? If we do, then it is seen that they are to be the equals of the Northern States in rights, sovereignty, and dignity. Does any one believe that such a relation can be established and maintained by the Seceded States subjugate and humiliate the others, then they could not live together as the equals of the free people of the Union, and always the enemies of the subjugators.

But, it may be asked, is this a war for the Union? Are we sure that in authority intend nothing else? They certainly profess nothing stem this title. I attribute to them nothing else. If the war is not for the Union, and if not directed with sole reference to that end, then it is the most stupendous fraud that has ever been perpetrated. That many, very many of its participants will not be satisfied with that issue. It might be very important, therefore, to the salvation of the country, what the salvation of construction comes, if ever it should come, to have the soundings on this point taken in advance. I should like exceedingly to see a popular vote taken in the North, especially in England, between the proposition to receive all the States back into the Union on terms of the constitution, which makes the States equal and alike sovereign, each with the right to have such domestic institutions as it may choose; and a proposition to recognize the independence of the Southern Confederacy.

It might be interesting as well as instructive, to unveil the hypocrisy of a certain school of politicians who have adorned so zealously about the war for the Union. It is painfully apparent that notwithstanding this clamor, they do not intend that the Union shall exist hereafter on the terms of the constitution, if it is to embrace all the States. The main object is representation, and the rendition of fugitive slaves, are features of the Constitution which they condemn and abhor. Between the maintenance of these and the recognition of the Southern Confederacy, many of them, in my judgment, would prefer the latter. Their aversion to those clauses of the Constitution was a primary cause of the alienation and hostility of the South, and I fear they would not yield that aversion now to render the Union what it once was. Let Mr. Lincoln try this question, and soon solve the problem of the nation's imbroglio.

Do not understand me that I would yield the sword or any other means calculated to render the Union what it was. What I mean is, that if the Union, and only, is the object, the sword will never find the belligerents in a better condition to commence that work than now, and that other agencies should be promptly employed. I yield to no man in devotion and loyalty to the Union as it is, and to the principles of government transmitted to us by our fathers. The maintenance and perpetuation of these shall be the objects nearest my heart, whether I be in private or public life. With much esteem, I remain, Yours truly,

Wm. B. BIGLER.

To S. D. ANDERSON, Esq., Phila., Pa.

The Knoxville Register mentions the purchase at the Depository in that place, of \$400,000 Confederate Bonds, by the President of the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad, as an investment for the Company. He has ordered an additional hundred thousand dollars worth of these securities.

The Duke of Devonshire has remitted 40 per cent. of the rents of his estate in Ireland, in consequence of unfavorable harvest.

Some of those persons who deem it the chief and only aim and end of life, to make all the money they can out of the necessities of their neighbors, or dependents, will excuse and explain his conduct on the plea of insanity.

The New York Herald says:

Latest intelligence, believed to be reliable, states that the main body of the rebel army has succeeded in reaching a point between our army and Richmond. Jackson and Stuart are said to be between Culpeper and Warrenton.